

AMENDMENTS TO THE DRAWINGS

The attached sheet(s) of drawings includes changes to Fig. 5.

Attachment: One replacement sheet

REMARKS

Claims 11-16 are pending. Claims 1-10 have been canceled. Claims 11-16 have been newly added. The specification has been amended. Figure 5 has been replaced with an amended Figure 5. No new matter has been presented.

The Action notes that the claims filed on December 13, 2004 did not comply with the requirements of 37 CFR 1.121(c). Since the claims amended therein have been canceled, this objection is moot.

Support for the amendment to the claims can be found in the specification at pgs. 12 and 13.

The drawings were objected to for failing to show every feature of the invention specified in the claims. Figure 5 has been amended to show the mounting apparatus of claim 7. Applicant notes that the inclusion of the four sheets of drawings with this application was a clerical error, and the drawings from the PCT application are the correct figures for this application. Applicant thanks the Examiner for pointing this out. Withdrawal of this objection is respectfully requested.

The specification was objected to for a specific minor formality. The specification has been amended, and withdrawal of this objection is respectfully requested.

Claims 2-4, 6, 9 and 10 were objected to for various informalities. This objection is overcome by amendment.

Claims 2, 3 and 7 are rejected under 35 USC 112, first paragraph, as failing to comply with the written description requirement. This rejection is overcome by amendment.

Claims 1-10 are rejected under 35 USC 102(b) as being anticipated by Höekele, DE 2250441. This rejection is respectfully traversed.

Newly added independent claims 11 and 14 recite “first and second wedges respectively inserted in the two cone openings, wherein the first and second wedges can be displaced with respect to each other such that faces of the wedges drive the conical tapering faces of the first and second plates away from one another.”

With reference to Fig. 5 of the instant application, according to claims 11 and 14, the conical element 24 is moveable in the direction of the operating element 56 when the wedges drive plates 58a, 58b away from one another. Plate 58a is pressed on the supporting wall 52, therefore plate 58a does not move and plate 58b moves and pulls, via loop 54, the conical element 24 closer to the operating element 56.

The device of Höekele (as seen in Fig. 2) teaches using two wedges 122 to move away two conical elements 120 with respect to the common rotating axis of the conical elements. According to the disclosure of Höekele, it is necessary that the device always has two conical elements back to back. In contrast, the claimed device provides that only one single conical element 24 must move.

For at least these reasons, the features of claim 11-16 are not taught or suggested by Höekele.

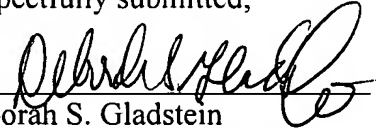
In view of the above, each of the presently pending claims in this application is believed to be in immediate condition for allowance. Accordingly, the Examiner is respectfully requested to withdraw the outstanding rejection of the claims and to pass this application to issue. If it is determined that a telephone conference would expedite the prosecution of this application, the Examiner is invited to telephone the undersigned at the number given below.

In the event the U.S. Patent and Trademark office determines that an extension and/or other relief is required, applicant petitions for any required relief including extensions of time and authorizes the Commissioner to charge the cost of such petitions and/or other fees due in connection with the filing of this document to Deposit Account No. 03-1952 referencing docket no. 449122078500.

Dated: June 8, 2006

Respectfully submitted,

By


Deborah S. Gladstein

Registration No.: 43,636
MORRISON & FOERSTER LLP
1650 Tysons Blvd, Suite 300
McLean, Virginia 22102
(703) 760-7753

Attachments

REPLACEMENT SHEET